

Message Text

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22

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

SAM-01 /058 W

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R 270801Z JUL 76

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1385

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

FBIS OKINWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 8790

NOT RELESABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PINT PINR CH

SUBJECT: FEI I-MIN COMMENTS ON INDECISION IN PRC

1. CHIEF, CHINA REPORTING SECTION, AND PAO CALLED ON
TA KUNG PAO PUBLISHER FEI I-MIN JULY 27 FOLLOWING PAO'S
RETURN FROM CONSULTATIONS IN PEKING. IN ANSWER TO AN
EXPRESSION OF REGRET THAT PAO DID NOT RECEIVE PERMISSION
FOR EVEN A VISIT TO SHANGHAI, FEI RESPONDED THAT, IN THE
PRESENT ATMOSPHERE, NO ONE IN CHINA WANTS TO MAKE A DECISION.
RELATING THIS PROBLEM DIRECTLY TO THE CURRENT ANTI-RIGHTEST
CAMPAIGN, FEI CLAIMED THAT THIS UNWILLINGNESS TO MAKE
DECISIONS EXTENDED FROM THE LOWEST TO THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF
PARTY AND GOVERNMENT. ALWAYS AN ARDENT ADMIRER OF CHOU EN-LAI,
FEI CLAIMED THAT CHINA NO LONGER HAS ANYONE WITH THE
DECISIVENESS AND CONFIDENCE OF CHOU AND SAID THAT THE
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PROBLEM OF LEADERSHIP HAS EXISTED SINCE CHOU'S DEATH.

2. FEI SAID THAT CHINA IS CURRENTLY FUNCTIONING WITH A "COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP," THUS DECISION MAKING IS MORE DIFFICULT. THE COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP CONCEPT IS FOUND AT THE VERY HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE PARTY, FEI SAID, AND POINTED OUT THAT WITHIN THE POLITBURO THERE WERE ONLY THREE SURVIVING VICE CHAIRMEN AND EACH HAD TO BE CONSULTED ON ANY MAJOR DECISION. NOTING THAT THERE WERE TWO MORE VACANCIES TO BE FILLED IN THE VICE CHAIRMEN RANKS, FEI SPECULATED THAT CHANG CHUN-CHIAO WAS THE MOST LIKELY CANDIDATE FOR ONE OF THOSE SEATS. HE SAID HE WAS UNSURE OF THE LAST VICE CHAIRMANSHIP, BUT NOTED THAT YEH CHIEN-YING WAS VERY ELDERLY AND CHEN HSI-LIEN WOULD AFFORD MILITARY REPRESENTATION IN THE VICE CHAIRMEN RANKS. WHEN CONGENOFF MENTIONED PRESS SPECULATION THAT WU TEH MIGHT FILL THE ROLE OF CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS HAVING RECENTLY RECEIVED TWO AMBASSADORS, FEI EXPRESSED DOUBT, ALTHOUGH HE ADMITTED HE HAD NO LIKELY CHOICE FOR THAT POSITION. WHEN WEI KUO-CHING'S NAME WAS MENTIONED, FEI'S IMMEDIATE RESPONSE WAS "HE'S A MINORITY," REFERRING TO WEI'S CHUANG NATIONALITY. HE HSITILY ADDED, "THAT WOULDN'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE OF COURSE.."

3. ASKED TO EXPLAIN A REFERENCE IN THE OBITUARY OF COAL MINISTER HSU CHIN-CHIANG TO THE POLITICAL WORK SMALL GROUP OF THE STATE COUNCIL, FEI SAID THAT THIS TOO WAS A PRODUCT OF INDECISION. HE NOTED THAT IN THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE THERE ARE A NUMBER OF MAJOR DEPARTMENTS SUCH AS THE UNITED FRONT WORK DEPARTMENT, INTERNATIONAL LIAISON DEPARTMENT, AND POLITICAL WORK DEPARTMENT. MANY OF THESE HAVE STILL NOT BEEN FULLY RECONSTITUTED, FEI SAID, AND THUS ARE REFERRED TO AS WORK GROUPS RATHER THAN DEPARTMENTS AND ARE RUN BY A SMALL, COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP. THE POLITICAL WORK DEPARTMENT OF THE STATE COUNCIL WAS A CASE IN POINT. THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE POLITICAL WORK SMALL GROUP INVOLVE IDEOLOGY, SUPERVISION OF POLITICAL STUDY, AND "PERSONNEL," BY WHICH FEI SAID HE MEANT PARTY DISCIPLINE.

4. FEI'S EMPHASIS ON THE STALEMATE IN THE PRC DECISION MAKING WAS STRIKING, AND CONGENOFF ASKED AGAIN IF HE FELT THAT A CONFIDENTIAL

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NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS WOULD BE HELD SOON TO RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM. FEI AGAIN REITERATED THAT AN NPC WOULD BE HELD SOON, AT LEAST BY THE END OF THE YEAR. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THIS WAS ESSENTIAL IN VIEW OF THE PRESSING TASKS CONFRONTING CHINA BOTH DOMESTICALLY AND IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS.
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